CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of backing-up files, comprising:

storing a plurality of files on a local device;

identifying an ownership property associated with each of the files;

transmitting a list of the files along with the associated ownership property to a backup/restoration service; and

requesting restoration of at least one of said plurality of files.

2.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

assembling said files into a collection, wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting indicia of said files included in said collection.

3.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

transferring content information corresponding to said files to a digital storage medium; and

shipping said digital storage medium to a requestor of a restoration service.

4.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

reading file information from a plurality of removable media;

converting a format of said file information; and

storing the converted files on the local device.

5.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

storing, for each of the files, content and property right information.

6.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

storing, for each file, content information including digitized audio data and property right information including indicia of an ownership right of said content information sufficient to allow making a restoration copy thereof.

7.   The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

storing, for each of the files, content and performance information.

8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

storing audio files in a psychoacoustic compressed format.

9. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

storing a single copy of an audio file for a plurality of subscribers designating said audio file in said list.

10. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

associating indicia of copying rights with said files; and

selectively storing backup copies of said files on a remote storage medium in response to said indicia.

11. A system comprising:

a storage medium configured to store a plurality of files;

a communications link for transmitting a list of the files to a remote location; and

a file sever located at the remote location, said file server connected to the communications link and operable to receive and store the list of files and responsive to a restoration request for selectively restoring at least one of the files associated with an appropriate status of an ownership property associated with the files.

12. The system according to claim 11 wherein said storage medium further comprises a digital mass storage device configured to store said files in a compressed audio encoding format and a format associated with at least one of said files' respective property information indicative of a right to restore an associated one of said files.

13. The system according to claim 11 wherein said file server further comprises a digital mass storage device configured to restore at least one of said files onto a restoration medium compatible with said storage medium.

14. The system according to claim 11 wherein said file server is further configured to store a plurality of said lists and a common copy of each distinctive file referenced by any one of said plurality of lists.

15   The system according to claim 11 wherein said storage medium comprises a digital audio system configured to store a plurality of audio files in a compressed format including a removable media player configured to read audio media and a communications link configured to download audio files from a network.

16.   A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embedded therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store a plurality of files on a local device;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to transmit a list of the files to a backup/restoration service;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to identify an ownership property associated with each of the files; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to selectively restore files associated with an appropriate status of the ownership property.

17.   The computer program product according to claim 16 further comprising:

computer readable program code means for assembling said files into a collection, wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to transmit comprises transmitting indicia of said files included in said collection.

18.   The computer program product according to claim 16 further comprising:

computer readable program code means for reading file information from a plurality of removable media;

computer readable program code means for converting a format of said file information; and

computer readable program code means for storing the converted files on said local device.

19.   The computer program product according to claim 16 wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store a plurality of files further comprises:

storing, for each of the files, content and performance information.

20.   The computer program product according to claim 16 further comprising:

computer readable program code means for identifying a source medium as a stamped compact disc (CD);

computer readable program code means for recognizing watermarks present in said files; and

computer readable program code means for identifying metadata associated with said files.

21.   The computer program product according to claim 16 wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store a plurality of files further comprises:

storing, for each of the files, content and property right information.

22.   The computer program product according to claim 21 further comprising:

storing, for each file, content information including digitized audio data and property right information including indicia of an ownership right of said content information sufficient to allow making a restoration copy thereof.

23.   A system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of files;

means for receiving a list of files stored at a remote location, the list of files include an ownership property associated with each of the listed files;

means for storing the list of files;

means for receiving a restoration request from the remote location; and

means for restoring the files to the remote location.

24.   The system according to claim 23 further comprising:

means for transferring content information corresponding to said files to a digital storage medium; and

means for shipping said digital storage medium to a requestor of a restoration service.

25.   The system according to claim 23 further comprising:

downloading one of said files from a remote server.

26.   The system according to claim 23 further comprising:

means for reading file information from a plurality of removable media; and

means for converting a format of said file information wherein said means for storing a plurality of files further comprises storing the converted files on a local device.

27.   The system according to claim 23 wherein said storing means further comprises storing, for each of the files, content and property right information.

28.   The system according to claim 23 wherein said storing means further comprises storing, for each file, content information including digitized audio data and property right information including indicia of an ownership right of said content information sufficient to allow making a restoration copy thereof.